Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A bearing component for a prosthetic assembly comprising:

a body;

said body having an articular surface;

said articular surface having areas of relief that define an interrupted bearing surface; and

said areas of relief range from 0.3% to 83.2% relative to an otherwise uninterrupted bearing surface area, and from 0.01% to 31.88% relative to a total articular surface area.

2. The bearing component of claim 1, wherein said body comprises a metal and said areas of relief range from 0.3% to 73.3% relative to the otherwise uninterrupted bearing surface area, and from 0.02% to 3.02% relative to the total articular surface area.

3. The bearing component of claim 2, wherein said metal comprises cobalt chromium.

4. The bearing component of claim 1, wherein said body comprises a ceramic and said areas of relief range from 0.3% to 73.3% relative to the otherwise uninterrupted bearing surface area, and from 0.01% to 2.15% relative to the total articular surface area.

5. The bearing component of claim 1, wherein said body comprises polyethylene and said areas of relief range from 5.7% to 83.2% relative to the uninterrupted bearing surface area, and from 2.33% to 31.88% relative to the total articular surface area.

6. The bearing component of claim 1, wherein said areas of relief are formed by grooves.

7. The bearing component of claim 1, wherein said areas of relief are formed by dimples.

8. The bearing component of claim 1, wherein said areas of relief are formed by sockets.

9. The bearing component of claim 1, wherein said areas of relief are formed in said articular surface to a depth of less than one millimeter.

10. A prosthetic joint comprising:

a bearing component; and

a corresponding component;

said bearing component having an articular surface area adapted to receive said corresponding component;

said articular surface area having a bearing surface area defined by interruptions and adapted to be contacted by said corresponding component; and

said interruptions range from 0.3% to 83.2% relative to an otherwise uninterrupted bearing surface area, and from 0.01% to 31.88% relative to said articular surface area.

11. The prosthetic joint of claim 10, wherein said bearing component and said corresponding component comprise a metal, and said interruptions range from 0.3% to 73.3% relative to the otherwise uninterrupted contact surface area, and from 0.02% to 3.02% relative to the articular surface area.

12. The prosthetic joint of claim 11, wherein said metal comprises cobalt chromium.

13. The prosthetic joint of claim 10, wherein said bearing component and said corresponding component comprises a ceramic, and said interruptions range from 0.3% to 73.3% relative to the otherwise uninterrupted bearing surface area, and from 0.01% to 2.15% relative to the articular surface area.

14. The prosthetic joint of claim 10, wherein said bearing component comprises polyethylene and said corresponding component comprises a metal, and said interruptions range from 5.7% to 83.2% relative to the uninterrupted bearing surface area, and from 2.33% to 31.88% relative to the articular surface area.

15. The prosthetic joint of claim 14, wherein said metal comprises cobalt chromium.

16. The prosthetic joint of claim 10, wherein said interruptions are formed by grooves.

17. The prosthetic joint of claim 10, wherein said interruptions are formed by dimples.

18. The prosthetic joint of claim 10, wherein said interruptions are formed by sockets.

19. The prosthetic joint of claim 10, wherein said interruptions are formed in said articular surface area to a depth of less than one millimeter.